Katie Archibald

I Wonder What a Dolphin Is?

Introduction

There are 43 different species of dolphins. Dolphins are very intelligent mammals. All dolphins belong to the Cetacean family. The scientific name for the dolphin is Delphinidae.

Habitat

Dolphins are found living in water. Most live in sea water but they can also live in freshwater locations. Only a handful of species though are known to thrive in freshwater regions. River dolphins also live in the Amazon and Orinoco rivers.

Diet

The food that dolphins eat is different for each species. While some dolphins eat fishes like herring, cod or mackerel, others eat squids. Even more, large dolphins like the killer whales eat some other marine mammals like seals or sea lions and sometimes even turtles. Dolphins can consume up to thirty pounds of fish a day.

Protection

There are only fifty-five Maui dolphins left. Maui dolphins are mostly discovered because they get caught in our fishing nets. The five top endangered dolphin species are the Maui dolphin, Hector’s dolphin, Indur and Ganges dolphin, Vaquita dolphin and Baji dolphin.

Other Interesting Facts

When dolphins sleep they stop using half their body and close the opposite eye while the other half of the brain monitors what is going on in the environment and controls breathing functions. Even though dolphins have a hundred teeth, they do not use them for eating. They do use them to get the school of fish surrounded and balled up. Dolphins can live up to forty years but the average age is twenty-five years.

Conclusion

Dolphins are interesting and intelligent animals which are known to communicate like humans. The name for a group of dolphins is a pod.